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CONTACT: MARTY RENDON

## REAGAN VISIT TO PORTUGAL PROMPTS 131 LAWMAKERS TO PRESS ON EAST TIMOR TRAGEDY

WASHINGTON--A bipartisan group of 131 House members urged President Reagan to use his visit to Portugal this week to express American concern over the tragedy of East Timor, the largely Roman Catholic island territory and former Portuguese colony near Australia.

At least 100,000 out of a population of less than 700,000 have died in East Timor since the 1975 Indonesian invasion of the territory and subsequent military operations in the territory.

An authoritative Catholic Church source stated in recent months that because of the continuing Indonesian military action against Timorese resistance, "the number of orphans, widows, and areas where there is extreme lack of food and medication is on the increase."

International relief agencies have not been permitted to visit those areas.

"Today there is a community of East Timorese clergy and refugees in Portugal, many of whom were direct witnesses to the recent grim events in their homeland," the letter said.

The lawmakers noted that although East Timor is occupied by Indonesia, under international law the Portuguese government is still considered the authority responsible for East Timor and has expressed concern about recent developments in the territory.

The House members told Reagan, "We believe your visit to Portugal provides an excellent opportunity" to call for unrestricted access to East Timor by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"Since August, 1983, when Indonesia launched a military offensive aimed at crushing resistance to its rule, the ICRC has been prevented from providing food and medical assistance to the territory," they said.

The letter was drafted by Rep. Tony P. Hall (D-Ohio). It is the largest Congressional expression of support to date regarding the Timor tragedy.

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ADD ONE
EAST TIMOR

"The plight of the East Timorese is very much the responsibility of the United States as long as we are supplying Indonesia the very arms which are being used to suppress their rights," Hall said.

The legislators also noted that last July, Pope John Paul II, in an unusual admonition to the new Indonesian Ambassador to the Holy See, raised the issues of continuing human rights violations and the lack of international humanitarian access to East Timor.

The Pope also called attention to the religious, ethnic, and cultural rights of the people of the territory.

"We hope you will express to the leaders of Portugal your willingness to work with them on proposals to bring an end to the human suffering in East Timor and to bring an authentic peace to East Timor," the lawmakers emphasized to Reagan.

"An indication of your interest could contribute significantly to efforts to prevent further bloodshed and misery in East Timor," they said.

The text of the letter follows:

April 26, 1985

Dear Mr. President:

We are deeply concerned about the continuing human tragedy in East Timor, the predominantly Roman Catholic former Portuguese colony invaded by Indonesia in 1975. Since then, more than 100,000 East Timorese have perished from the combined effects of the Indonesian occupation.

We respectfully urge you to discuss issues relating to East Timor with the Portuguese government during your visit to Portugal in May. Although East Timor is occupied by Indonesia, Portugal still considers itself to be the administrative authority of the territory under international law. The plight of the Timorese people is a matter of ongoing concern to Portugal, both for historical and contemporary reasons. Today there is a community of East Timorese clergy and refugees in Portugal, many of whom were direct witnesses to the recent grim events in their homeland.

Portugal continues to pursue diplomatic initiatives regarding East Timor. At the U.N. Human Rights Commission session in Geneva on February 20, 1985, the head of the Portuguese delegation noted that there are "violations of human rights in East Timor that cannot leave my country or the international community indifferent." We hope you will express to the leaders of Portugal your willingness to work with them on proposals to bring an end to the human suffering in East Timor and to bring an authentic peace to East Timor. An indication of your interest could contribute significantly to efforts to prevent further bloodshed and misery in East Timor.

Last July, Pope John Paul II, in an unusual admonition to the new Indonesian Ambassador to the Holy See, raised the issues of continuing human rights violations and lack of international humanitarian access to East Timor. The Pope also called attention to the religious, ethnic, and cultural rights of the people of the territory. The Pope's concern, as well as that raised by Secretary of State Shultz during his visit to Indonesia last year, have helped to focus world attention on the situation in East Timor. But it is clear that further expressions of concern are needed.

The most immediate international issue relating to East Timor is the matter of access to the territory by the International Committee of the Red

Cross (ICRC). Since August, 1983, when Indonesia launched a military offensive aimed at crushing resistance to its rule, the ICRC has been prevented from providing food and medical assistance to the territory. ICRC activities are currently limited to prison visitations and family reunifications. Earlier this year, ICRC President Alexandre Hay deplored the difficulties presented by the Indonesian authorities for ICRC activities in East Timor.

The Portuguese government also criticized the lack of ICRC access to East Timor, and at the U.N. Human Rights Commission called attention to the ICRC's "absence of freedom of action necessary to carry out the assistance" to the Timorese population. We believe your visit to Portugal provides an excellent opportunity for the United States to join with Portugal in calling for access by the Red Cross to East Timor.

We fully realize the importance of close and friendly relations with Indonesia. We also are aware that there will be many other issues on your agenda when you travel to Portugal. However, we respectfully ask you to add the suffering of the people of East Timor to your agenda. You have a special opportunity during your visit to bring to bear on the Timor tragedy the prestige and moral influence of the United States.

Sincerely,

Morris K. Udall (D-Ariz.)
Anthony C. Beilenson (D-Calif.)
Howard L. Berman (D-Calif.)
Douglas H. Bosco (D-Calif.)
Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.)
George E. Brown, Jr. (D-Calif.)
Sala Burton (D-Calif.)
Tony Coelho (D-Calif.)
Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif.)
Julian C. Dixon (D-Calif.)
Mervyn M. Dymally (D-Calif.)
Don Edwards (D-Calif.)
Vic Fazio (D-Calif.)
Augustus F. Hawkins (D-Calif.)
Tom Lantos (D-Calif.)
Mel Levine (D-Calif.)
Matthew G. Martinez (D-Calif.)
Robert T. Matsui (D-Calif.)
Norman Y. Mineta (D-Calif.)
Leon E. Panetta (D-Calif.)
Fortney H. (Pete) Stark (D-Calif.)
Henry A. Waxman (D-Calif.)
Ed Zschau (D-Calif.)
Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.)
Timothy E. Wirth (D-Colo.)
Sam Gejdenson (D-Conn.)
Barbara B. Kennelly (D-Conn.)
Stewart B. McKinney (R-Conn.)
Bruce Morrison (D-Conn.)
Thomas R. Carper (D-Del.)
Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.)
Earl Hutto (D-Fla.)
William Lehman (D-Fla.)
Claude Pepper (D-Fla.)
Cecil (Cec) Heftel (D-Hawaii)
Lane Evans (D-Ill.)
Charles A. Hayes (D-Ill.)
John Edward Porter (R-Ill.)
Gus Savage (D-Ill.)
Berkley Bedell (D-Iowa)
Cooper Evans (R-Iowa)
Jim Leach (R-Iowa)
Dan Glickman (D-Kans.)
Roy Dyson (D-Md.)
Steny F. Hoyer (D-Md.)
Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.)
Parren J. Mitchell (D-Md.)
Chester G. Atkins (D-Mass.)
Edward P. Boland (D-Mass.)
Brian J. Donnelly (D-Mass.)
Barney Frank (D-Mass.)
Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.)
Nicholas Mavroules (D-Mass.)
Joe Moakley (D-Mass.)
Gerry E. Studds (D-Mass.)
David E. Bonior (D-Mich.)
John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.)
Dale Kildee (D-Mich.)
Sander M. Levin (D-Mich.)
Howard Wolpe (D-Mich.)
James L. Oberstar (D-Minn.)
Martin Olav Sabo (D-Minn.)
Gerry Sikorski (D-Minn.)
Bruce F. Vento (D-Minn.)
Alan Wheat (D-Mo.)
Pat Williams (D-Mont.)
Doug Bereuter (R-Nebr.)
James J. Howard (D-N.J.)
William J. Hughes (D-N.J.)
Peter W. Rodino, Jr. (D-N.J.)
Robert A. Roe (D-N.J.)
Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.)
Robert G. Torricelli (D-N.J.)
Bill Richardson (D-N. Mex.)
Gary L. Ackerman (D-N.Y.)
Joseph P. Addabbo (D-N.Y.)
Thomas J. Downey (D-N.Y.)
Robert Garcia (D-N.Y.)
Benjamin A. Gilman (R-N.Y.)
Bill Green (R-N.Y.)
Frank Horton (R-N.Y.)
Thomas J. Manton (D-N.Y.)
Matthew F. McHugh (D-N.Y.)
Robert J. Mrazek (D-N.Y.)
Henry J. Nowak (D-N.Y.)
Major R. Owens (D-N.Y.)
Charles B. Rangel (D-N.Y.)
James H. Scheuer (D-N.Y.)
Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.)
Edolphus Towns (D-N.Y.)
Ted Weiss (D-N.Y.)
George C. Wortley (R-N.Y.)
Stephen J. Neal (D-N.C.)
Byron L. Dorgan (D-N. Dak.)
Douglas Applegate (D-Ohio)
Dennis E. Eckart (D-Ohio)

ADD THREE
EAST TIMOR

Edward F. Feighan (D-Ohio)
Tony P. Hall (D-Ohio)
Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio)
Bob McEwen (R-Ohio)
Mary Rose Oakar (D-Ohio)
Donald J. Pease (D-Ohio)
John F. Seiberling (D-Ohio)
Louis Stokes (D-Ohio)
Mike Synar (D-Okla.)
Les AuCoin (D-Oreg.)
James Weaver (D-Oreg.)
Ron Wyden (D-Oreg.)
William J. Coyne (D-Pa.)
Bob Edgar (D-Pa.)
Thomas Foglietta (D-Pa.)
William H. Gray III (D-Pa.)
Joe Kolter (D-Pa.)
Peter H. Kostmayer (D-Pa.)
Austin J. Murphy (D-Pa.)
Doug Walgren (D-Pa.)
Fernand St Germain (D-R.I.)
Claudine Schneider (R-R.I.)
Thomas A. Daschle (D-S. Dak.)
William Hill Boner (D-Tenn.)
Jim Cooper (D-Tenn.)
Albert G. Bustamante (D-Tex.)
Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.)
Mickey Leland (D-Tex.)
Frederick C. Boucher (D-Va.)
Rod Chandler (D-Wash.)
Mike Lowry (D-Wash.)
Al Swift (D-Wash.)
Alan B. Mollohan (D-W. Va.)
Robert W. Kastenmeier (D-Wisc.)
Jim Moody (D-Wisc.)

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